**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-55.    (Canceled)

56.    (Currently Amended) A system configured to provide an information distribution service, said system comprising:

a memory subsystem;

one or more application servers configured to receive, via secure links to said information distribution service, messages including personal information relating to users of said information distribution service, wherein said users include a first user, wherein at least some of said messages are received from a plurality of business entities;

wherein the received messages include first and second messages, wherein the first and second messages each include personal, non-public information relating to said first user and each include an indication of a time-based priority of the message, wherein the first message is received from a first business entity, wherein the second message is received from a second business entity;

wherein said first and second business entities have been associated with a first account of said information distribution service, permitting said first and second business entities to provide, via said information distribution service, messages to said first account that include personal information relating to said first user, wherein the first account is associated with the first user;

wherein the received messages further include a third message, wherein said third message includes information corresponding to a second account of said information distribution service, and wherein the second account corresponds to a second user of said information distribution service, wherein the ~~second account has been associated with the first account~~ information distribution service stores information indicating that the second account is permitted to share information with the first account, and wherein said first account is independent from said second account;

wherein said one or more application servers are configured to store the received messages in said memory subsystem, including the first, second, and third messages;

wherein the one or more application servers are configured to generate a report for the first account by selecting the stored messages that are directed to the first account and whose time-based priorities satisfy one or more time-based criteria, wherein the report for the first account includes at least an indication of the first, second, and third messages;

wherein the one or more application servers are configured to store the report for the first account.

57.     (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the one or more application servers are configured to make the stored report available to a client computer by conveying the stored report to the client computer for display in response to the client computer logging on to the first account.

58.     (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein said system is configured to convey said report to a client computer in response to said client computer logging on to said first account.

59.     (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein said system is configured to convey the report over a wireless network to a client computer that has accessed the first account.

60.     (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein said system is configured to convey the report over a television network to a client computer that has accessed the first account.

61.     (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein said system is configured to convey the report over a secure link to a client computer that has accessed the first account.

62.     (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein said system is web-based, wherein said system further comprises a web server coupled to at least one of said one or more application servers, wherein the web server is configured to convey said report to a client computer via one or more web pages.

63.     (Previously Presented) The system of claim 62, wherein said web server and said at least one application server are configured to generate said one or more web pages using at least said first and second messages.

64.     (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein said system is further configured to include additional content as part of said report for the first account, wherein said additional content includes public information generated by said one or more application servers based upon user profile information specified by said first user.

65.     (Previously Presented) The system of claim 64, wherein said additional content included in the report for the first account includes weather information based on location information specified by said first user to the information distribution service.

66.     (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein said one or more application servers are further configured to permit sharing of personal information of said first user with one or more designated accounts of said information distribution service, wherein said system is configured to permit said sharing based at least in part upon sharing control information specified by said first user.

67.     (Previously Presented) The system of claim 66, wherein said sharing control information includes information identifying said one or more designated accounts and information identifying personal information of said first user to be shared.

68.     (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein said system is further configured to receive information from a client computer that has accessed the first account, wherein the received information indicates that the first and second business entities are to be associated with the first account via the information distribution service.

69.     (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein said plurality of business entities include one or more types of entities from the following types: manufacturers, retailers, government agencies, nonprofit entities, sports franchises.

70.     (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein said first message includes one of the following types of content: information relating to a prescription of said first user, service information for an automobile of said first user, information relating to a particular product purchased by said first user, information for a travel reservation of said first user, voicemail messages for said first user.

71.     (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein at least one of said one or more application servers is further configured to receive voting information specified by said first user.

72.     (Previously Presented) The system of claim 71, wherein at least one of said one or more application servers is further configured to receive a question from a client computer that has accessed the first account and to send said received question to other accounts of said information distribution service.

73.     (Currently Amended) A computer-based method for providing an information distribution service, said method comprising:

receiving, via secure links to said information distribution service, messages including personal information relating to users of said information distribution service, wherein said users include a first user, wherein at least some of said messages are received from a plurality of business entities, wherein the received messages include first, second, and third messages, wherein the first and second messages each include personal, non-public information relating to said first user and an indication of a time-based priority of the message, wherein the first message is received from a first business entity, wherein the second message is received from a second business entity, wherein said first and second business entities have been associated with a first account of the information distribution service via said information distribution service, permitting said first and second business entities to provide, via said information distribution service, messages to said first account that include personal information relating to said first user, wherein the first account is associated with the first user;

wherein the received messages further include a third message, wherein the third message includes information corresponding to a second account of the information distribution service, wherein the second account corresponds to a second user of the information distribution service, wherein the ~~second account has been associated with the first account~~ <u>information distribution service stores information indicating that the second account is permitted to share information with the first account</u>, and wherein said first account is independent from said second user account;

storing said received messages;

generating a report for the first account, wherein said generating includes selecting at least the first, second, and third messages for inclusion in the report based on the time-based priority of those messages satisfying one or more time-based criteria specified by the information distribution service;

storing the report for the first account;

making the report available to a client computer system that has accessed the first account via said information distribution service, wherein the report is displayable on the client computer system using a first interface.

74.     (Previously Presented) The system of claim 73, wherein said making the stored report available to the client computer system includes conveying the stored report for display to the first user.

75.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74, wherein said conveying is performed in response to said client computer system logging in to said first account of the information distribution service.

76.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, further comprising including additional content as part of said report, wherein said additional content is generated based at least in part upon user profile information specified by said first user, wherein said additional content is not private content relative to the first user.

77.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, wherein said additional content includes weather information based on location information specified by said first user.

78.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, further comprising:
        receiving sharing control information from said client computer system, wherein said sharing control information identifies one or more other accounts of said information distribution service; and
        permitting said other accounts to access personal information of said first user in response to said receiving said sharing control information.

79.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 78, wherein said sharing control information further identifies personal information of said first user to be shared with said other users.

80.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, wherein said first plurality of business entities includes one or more types of the following types of entities: manufacturers, retailers, government agencies, nonprofit entities, sports franchises.

81.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, wherein said first message includes one of the following types of content:  information relating to a prescription of said first user, service information for an automobile of said first user, information relating to a particular product purchased by said first user, information for a travel reservation of said first user, voicemail messages for said first user.

82.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, further comprising receiving voting information from said client computer system.

83.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 82, further comprising receiving questions from said client computer system and sending said received questions to other accounts of said information distribution service.

84.      (Currently Amended) A computer-readable memory medium comprising program instructions executable by a computer to:

receive, via secure links to an information distribution service, messages including personal information relating to users of said information distribution service, wherein said users include a first user, wherein at least some of said messages are received from a plurality of business entities, wherein the received messages include first, second, and third messages, wherein the first and second messages each include personal, private information relating to said first user and each include an indication of a time-based priority of the message, wherein the first message is received from a first business entity, wherein the second message is received from a second business entity, wherein said first and second business entities have been associated with a first account of said information distribution service via said information distribution service, permitting said first and second business entities to provide, via said information distribution service, messages to said first account that include personal information relating to said first user, wherein the first account is associated with the first user;

wherein the received messages further include a third message, wherein the third message includes information corresponding to a second account of said information distribution service, wherein the ~~second account has been associated with the first account~~ <u>information distribution service stores information indicating that the second account is permitted to share information with the first account</u>, and wherein said first account is independent from said second account;

store said received messages;

generate a report for the first account, wherein generating the report includes selecting at least the first, second, and third messages for inclusion in the report based on the time-based priorities of those messages satisfying one or more time-based criteria specified by the information distribution service; and make the report available to a client computer system that has accessed the first account via said information distribution service, wherein the report is displayable on the client computer system using a first interface.

85. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

a first computer system receiving, from an information distribution service over a data channel that includes the Internet, a first plurality of messages;

responsive to said receiving, said first computer system providing at least an indication of each of the first plurality of messages for display to a first user using a first interface;

wherein at least some of the first plurality of messages were sent to the information distribution service over a respective data channel that includes the Internet by a plurality of business entities;

wherein each of the plurality of business entities is associated with a first account of the information distribution service and is permitted by the information distribution service to provide messages to the first account, wherein the first account is associated with the first user;

wherein each of the at least some of the first plurality of messages includes personal, non-public content that is related to the first user and that is not provided by the originating business entity to other accounts of the information distribution service;

wherein the first plurality of messages further include a user message, wherein the user message includes information corresponding to a second account of said information distribution service that is associated with a second user of the information distribution service, wherein the ~~second account has been associated with the first account~~ <u>information distribution service stores information indicating that the second account is permitted to share information with the first account</u>, and wherein said first account is independent from said second account;

wherein each of the at least some of the first plurality of messages has an associated time value indicative of a time-based priority of the message, and wherein each of the first plurality of messages was selected for delivery to the first computer system based on its associated time value satisfying one or more time-based criteria specified by the information distribution service.

86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, further comprising said first computer system conveying sharing control information to the information distribution service, wherein the sharing control information indicates 1) one or more other accounts of the information distribution service and 2) one or more types of information relating to the first user that is stored by the information distribution service;

wherein the conveyed sharing control information permits the one or more types of information relating to the first user to be shared with the one or more other accounts of the information distribution service.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86, further comprising said first computer system conveying, via the information distribution service, a query to one or more other accounts of the information distribution service.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 87, further comprising said first computer system conveying information to the information distribution service that is indicative of a request by the first user to join a first group that includes one or more other accounts of the information distribution service.

89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88, further comprising said first computer system sending a message to an account in the first group of the information distribution service via the information distribution service.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 89, wherein the message is an instant message.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88, further comprising said first computer system sending a message to all members of the first group via the information distribution service.

92.    (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88, further comprising said first computer system conveying voting information to the information distribution system, wherein the voting information is indicative of a vote by the first user within the context of the first group.

93.    (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein the first interface is a web interface or an interactive voice response system.

94.    (Previously Presented) The method of claim 93, wherein said receiving is performed wirelessly.

95.    (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein the first plurality of messages includes a first message that is a text-based message.

96.    (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein the first plurality of messages includes a first message that includes audio and video.

97.    (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein the first plurality of messages includes a first message that includes prescription information for the first user.

98.    (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, further comprising the first computer system also receiving, from the information distribution service, a second plurality of messages having content personalized to the first user based on a user profile submitted to the information distribution service by the first computer system, wherein the second plurality of messages do not include private information of the first user.

99.    (Previously Presented) The method of claim 98, wherein the second plurality of messages includes a second message having weather information corresponding to a location designated by the first user.

100.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein the first interface is a graphical interface, wherein the graphical interface, at a first point in time, includes at least an indication of each of the first plurality of messages.

101.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 100, wherein the first computer system is configured to display more content relating to a first of the first plurality of messages in response to receiving input from the first user indicating a selection of that message.

102.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein the first plurality of messages includes a first message whose associated time value indicates the day on which the first message is received by the information distribution service, and wherein the one or more time-based criteria specified by the information distribution service includes whether a given message has an associated time value that corresponds to the current day.

103.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein said first plurality of messages are received while the first computer system is logged on to the information distribution service, and are provided to the first user substantially upon being received.

104-117. (Canceled)

118.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the information distribution service permits providing, to the first account, information from one or more groups of users defined via the information distribution service, information from the first user's family members and/or friends, and customer service information requested by the first user.

119. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 118, wherein the information distribution service facilitates voting by users of the information distribution service.

120. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 119, wherein the information distribution service maintains a calendar, address book, and a to-do list for users of the information distribution service.

121. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, wherein the information distribution service permits providing, to the first account, information from one or more groups of users defined via the information distribution service, information from the first user's family members and/or friends, and customer service information requested by the first user.

122. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 121, wherein the information distribution service facilitates voting by users of the information distribution service.

123. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122, wherein the information distribution service maintains a calendar, address book, and a to-do list for users of the information distribution service.

124. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 84, wherein the information distribution service permits providing, to the first account, information from one or more groups of users defined via the information distribution service, information from the first user's family members and/or friends, and customer service information requested by the first user.

125. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 124, wherein the information distribution service facilitates voting by users of the information distribution service.

126.    (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 125, wherein the information distribution service maintains a calendar, address book, and a to-do list for users of the information distribution service.

127.    (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein the information distribution service permits providing, to the first account, information from one or more groups of users defined via the information distribution service, information from the first user's family members and/or friends, and customer service information requested by the first user.

128.    (Previously Presented) The method of claim 127, wherein the information distribution service facilitates voting by users of the information distribution service.

129.    (Previously Presented) The method of claim 128, wherein the information distribution service maintains a calendar, address book, and a to-do list for users of the information distribution service.

130-133. (Canceled)

134.    (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the information corresponding to the second account included in said third message is a message sent from the second account.

135.    (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, wherein the information corresponding to the second account included in said third message is a message sent from the second account.

136.    (Previously Presented) The memory medium of claim 84, wherein the information corresponding to the second account included in said third message is a message sent from the second account.

137.    (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein the information corresponding to the second account included in said user message is a message sent from the second account.

138-143.  (Canceled)